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In re Application of GRAFF

Application No.: 10/580,083

: DECISION ON PETITION

Filing Date: 18 May 2006

Attorney Docket No.: Graff-PCT-04

: UNDER 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3)

For: COMPUTER CONTROL OF NON-

DEBT FUNDING SYSTEM FOR HOME DEVICE :

This is a decision on the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), filed 14 October 2010 to accept an unintentionally delayed claim under 35 U.S.C. §120 for the benefit of priority to the international application identified in the concurrently filed amendment to the specification.

At the time of filing the present application, applicant did not make a proper claim for domestic priority. Thus, the filing of a petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is necessary. Such petition is hereby **GRANTED**.

A petition for acceptance of a claim for late priority under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) is only applicable to those applications filed on or after November 29, 2000. Further, the petition is appropriate only after the expiration of the period specified in 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii). In addition, the petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) must be accompanied by:

- (1) the reference required by 35 U.S.C. § 120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(i) of the prior-filed application, unless previously submitted;
- (2) the surcharge set forth in § 1.17(t); and
- (3) a statement that the entire delay between the date the claim was due under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(ii) and the date the claim was filed was unintentional. The Director may require additional information where there is a question whether the delay was unintentional.

The petition complies with the requirements for a grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) in that (1) a reference to the prior-filed nonprovisional application has been included in an amendment to the first sentence of the specification following the title, as provided by 37 CFR 1.78(a)(2)(iii); (2) the surcharge fee required by 37 CFR 1.17(t) has been submitted; and (3) the petition contains a proper statement of unintentional delay. Accordingly, having found that the petition for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for the benefit of priority under 35

U.S.C. §§ 120 to the prior-filed nonprovisional application satisfies the conditions of 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3), the petition is granted.

The granting of the petition to accept the delayed benefit claim to the prior-filed application under 37 CFR 1.78(a)(3) should not be construed as meaning that this instant application is entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application. In order for this application to be entitled to the benefit of the prior-filed application, all other requirements under 35 U.S.C. §120 and 37 CFR 1.78(a)(1) and (a)(2) must be met. Similarly, the fact that the corrected Filing Receipt accompanying this decision on petition includes the prior-filed application should not be construed as meaning that applicant is entitled to the claim for benefit of priority to the prior-filed application noted thereon. Accordingly, the examiner will, in due course, consider this benefit claim and determine whether this application is entitled to the benefit of the earlier filing date.

Any inquiries concerning this decision may be directed to Cynthia M. Kratz at (571) 272-3286. All other inquiries concerning either the examination procedures or status of the application should be directed to the Technology Center.

This matter is being referred to Technology Center Art Unit 3688 for appropriate action, including consideration by the examiner of applicant's entitlement to claim benefit of priority under 35 U.S.C. 120 to the prior-filed nonprovisional application.

/Bryan Lin/
Bryan Lin
Legal Examiner
Office of Petitions

ATTACHMENT: Corrected Filing Receipt